HOW TO INSTALL
ARMSTRONG'S
M-67
MONOWALL

By the makers of Armstrong's Building Materials
and Armstrong's Linoleum

Here are the tools you'll need

Hacksaw and handsaw, chalk line and plumb line, hand drill and expansion bit, dividers and level, screwdriver and file, hammer and measuring tape . . . are the simple tools you'll need. You can easily make a plumb line by attaching a long string to a weight.

Modernizing with Monowall®
is quick and easy

Remodeling your kitchen or bathroom with Armstrong's M-67 Monowall can be done quickly. Monowall comes in large, rigid panels that are simply cemented over the old walls. The average-size room can be remodeled in a day or two, with little of the mess and confusion that often goes with home renovation jobs.

Installation of Armstrong's Monowall is not difficult. If you can handle ordinary carpenter's tools, you can probably do the complete installation job yourself and save labor costs. Or, you may prefer to ask your lumber dealer to recommend a carpenter.

In either case, this booklet will serve as a helpful working guide. These instructions are based upon a typical bathroom job, but the same procedures will apply to any other room in the house.

Your particular job probably won't include all of the steps shown here, but you can easily pick out those that will apply to your own installation.

Plan the layout

A good way to plan how much Monowall you'll need, and how the panels should be arranged, is to make a rough drawing of each wall. From this drawing, you can quickly plan where the joints between panels will fall.

If you cover the entire walls, you may install the panels either vertically (1) or horizontally (2) with a metal channel connector in between. Or, you may plan to cover only the lower walls (3) up to a height of 4 feet, using a cap molding at the top.

Careful planning of where the joints will fall saves you wasteful cutting. For example, it's best to plan joints just above each door corner (1) or over and under each window corner. A good layout behind the tub-shower is to use a full panel vertically from tub to ceiling with a narrow panel on each side to fill out the full tub length (4). The vertical connector channels won't catch water.

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Clear the room

First, remove all trim or moldings, including towel bars, soap dishes, and wood trim. These will be replaced when the installation is complete.

Pry loose the baseboard (5) and any other wood trim. To remove the lavatory, make certain the water is turned off (6). Unscrew the collar connecting each pipe (7) to the faucet fixture. Use a padded wrench to avoid scarring the chrome. Then lift the lavatory from its brackets. Unscrew these brackets and mark their position high up on the wall so that you can locate them later on. To do this, drop a plumb line (8) across the centers of the holes from points high on the wall. Mark these high points and measure the distances from the holes to the marks above. Write down these measurements. Then, remove all towel bars, soap dishes, faucet handles, and anything else that might get in your way.
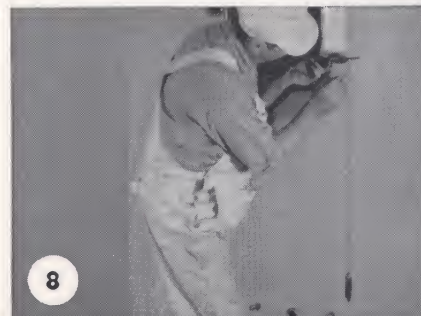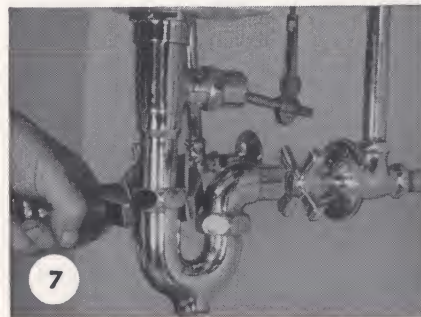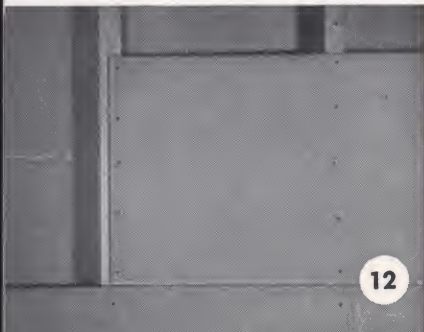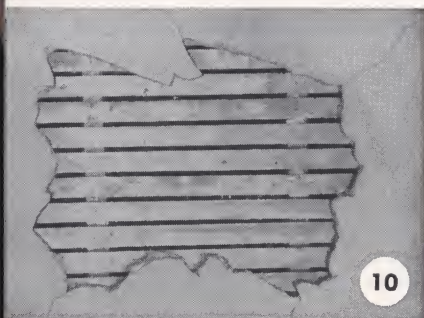
Prepare the walls

You can install Monowall on any wall surface that's reasonably level and solid.

If plaster cracks are slight and localized (9), no special wall preparation is necessary, provided the surface is reasonably firm. But if the cracks are widespread and the plaster is loose, knock out the loose spots (10) and fill in with a patch of wood. You might have to shim the patch out to make it level with the plaster (11). Wallpaper or similar wall coverings will have to be removed before you can put up Monowall. The adhesive that holds them in place just isn't strong enough to carry the extra load of Monowall. If the walls are painted, roughen the surface and you can cement the Monowall panels right over it. For the wall with no plaster at all — just bare studs — you can nail ordinary gypsum lath over the studs and cement the Monowall panels directly to that (12).

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Measure and mark

First, mark a level working line all the way around the walls for the top edge of the Monowall.

To find this line, measure up 50½″ from the floor's lowest point (13)—48″ for the Monowall and 2½″ at the bottom next to the floor. From this point, strike your level line around the room (14). When you reach the tub area, step up the working line enough to allow a 4-foot panel behind the tub (15) . . . that's 48″ plus a ⅜″ allowance for the metal channel that goes at the bottom. Now, you're ready to begin fitting. Start with the spigot wall (16). Begin by cutting a piece of Monowall slightly oversize. Place this piece against the wall, holding the top edge on the level line. Since few walls are plumb, the panel might be out from the corner at the top or bottom. So you'll have to scribe the Monowall to fit the corner of the wall.


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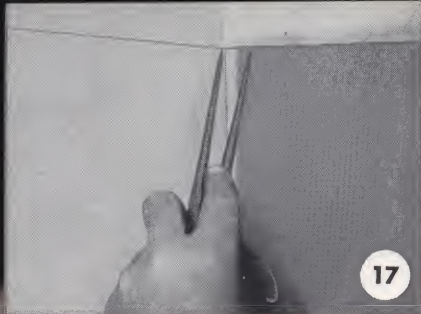
Fit and cut

Scribing means using your dividers to trace any irregular wall or cut onto a piece of material. The final cut is made along the scribe marks with a fine-tooth saw or extra-sharp knife.

To fit the Monowall panel to the side wall, place one point of the dividers in the corner against the side wall, and the other point across the widest part of the gap between the panel and wall (17), and onto the Monowall about ⅜". That extra ⅜" will allow for the width of the channel and free play inside. Now draw your dividers firmly down the panel, making certain the points don't slip (18). Press heavily enough to leave a score line on the surface of the Monowall. Cut along this score line with a fine-tooth saw (19). Always saw face up to avoid ragged edges. Then, turn the panel over and trim off the rough edge in back with a block plane or sharp knife (20).

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Fitting the spigot wall

Whenever you encounter a wall that presents many obstacles, such as spigots, you must take extreme care to cut accurately around the obstructions. The spigot wall will serve to illustrate the correct method.

Before cutting, it will be necessary to mark the pipe locations on the back side of the panel. To do this, daub a little paint or chalk on the tip of each pipe (21). Take the panel you've already cut to size for the spigot wall and hold it in place. Press it firmly against the spigot wall (22) exactly in the position it will be installed. The painted pipes will leave markings on the back of the panel. In the center of each marking, drive nails through the panel, from back to front (23). Then, turning the panel over, drill through the nail holes from front to back (24). Drill the holes slightly larger than the pipe diameters to prevent the panel from binding.
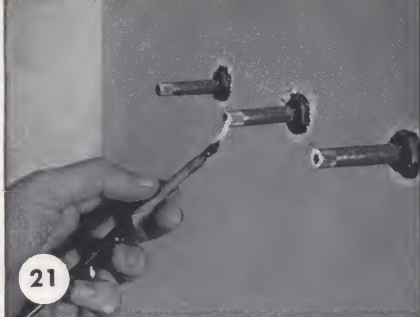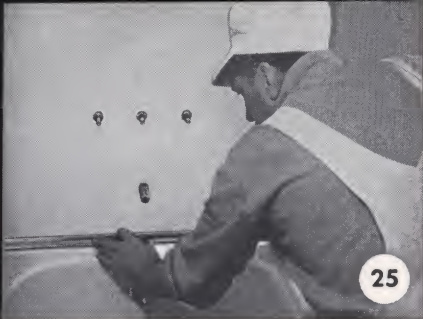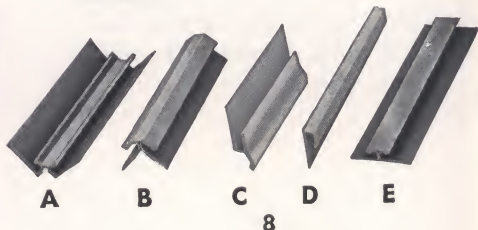
Install the channels

Now you're ready to cut and fit the metal trim channels to go around the tub area.

The right-hand tub channel is placed and cut off where it butts the wall (25). The left-hand channel should be fitted in and scribed (26) to fit the curve of the right-hand channel. Hold the channel rigidly (27) and cut it with a hacksaw. File the end smooth after cutting. The vertical corner channel should then be fit and cut in the same manner. To waterproof, squeeze a thick ribbon of Armstrong's Tub Channel Filler around the edge of the tub (28). Then press the channel into place and wipe off the excess Filler. Apply Filler to the insides of all metal channels in the tub area.

CHANNELS: A. Inside Corner; B. Outside Corner; C. Tub; D. Edging; E. Connector.


A   B   C   D   E

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Apply the Monowall

With the channels cut and water-proofed and the Monowall cut to fit, you're ready to begin the actual installation.

First, spread a thin sealer coat of Armstrong's Panelboard Cement on the wall (29). Then, with a notched trowel, spread Panelboard Cement on the back of the Monowall panel (30). Press the Monowall firmly against the wall (31). A connector channel (32) should be used between to connect the two adjoining pieces of Monowall. Adjoining pieces of Monowall should be cut about ⅛″ short to allow for dimensional change in the material. For a rough plaster wall, it is best to apply cement in large gobs spaced about 4″ apart so that the cement will spread when the panel is pressed into place (33).
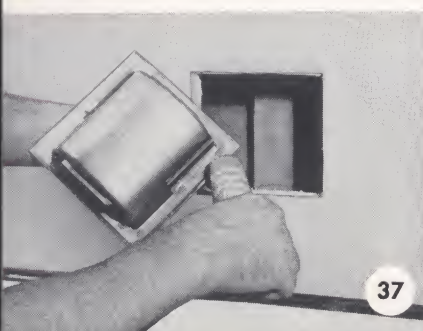
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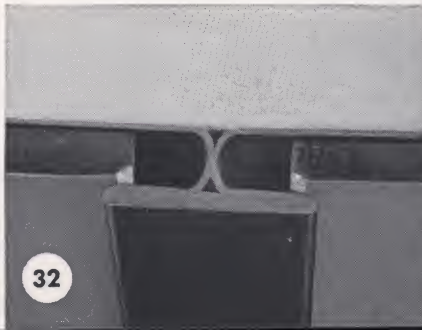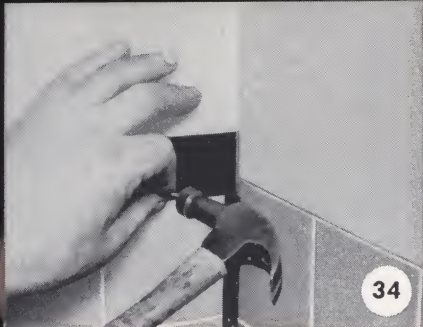
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Install trim and fixtures

Now, you're ready for the finishing touches.

Cap Molding, available in matching colors, is nailed (34) directly over the top edge of the Monowall. Baseboard is applied in the same fashion, but it's best to fill in first below with a strip of hardboard or scrap Monowall (35) to give the baseboard a solid backing. Screw in smaller fixtures (36) exactly where they were before so that the screws go into solid wood behind. Waterproof the edges of the soap dish (37) with Tub Channel Filler and squeeze Filler liberally around areas where the water and drain pipes come through the spigot wall. When you've replaced all fixtures and cleaned up the room, your job is completed.

MOLDINGS: Black hardboard moldings are available in 1¾″ Cap, 3¼″ Base, and 1¼″ Mullion.

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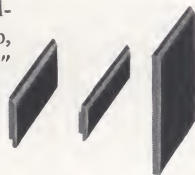
Full wall and ceiling jobs

If you cover the full wall instead of just the wainscot, several points would differ slightly.

First, you'd use an ordinary connector channel between the upper and lower panels. Or, you can install the panels vertically. If the job includes a ceiling, strike a center line (38) with your chalk and string and then strike a perpendicular line at the middle of the first line, running across the ceiling (39). Measure from lines into room corners, and transfer measurements to the Monowall panel. Cut the Monowall to size and nail a connector channel (if needed) to the center of the ceiling (40). Prime the ceiling with a skim coat of Armstrong's Panelboard Cement and trowel cement onto the back of the Monowall. Then the Monowall can be applied to the ceiling (41). It's best to have a helper on a ceiling job. Finally, you can trim the ceiling edges with metal edging channels around the top of the walls.

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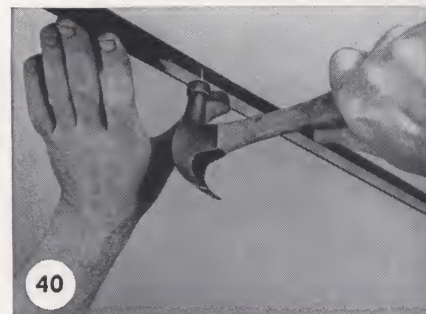
Tricks of the trade

Here are a few "professional" tips to make your job easier.

To avoid ending up with a full tile at one end of the panel and a fraction of a tile at the other, measure for location of "tile" lines before cutting panel to size (42). Instead of cutting around door frames and window casings, just pry the casing out about ⅛" (43) and slip the edge of the Monowall panel in behind it.

To fit the panel to the curve at the end of the tub, simply place the panel next to the tub, set your dividers across the gap between the edge of the Monowall and the edge of the vertical connector channel above (44), and score the curve of the tub onto the Monowall with the dividers.

Monowall is fairly heavy and might slip before the cement sets. To prevent this, drive two or three brads or finishing nails (45) along the bottom edge of the panel. They'll be covered by baseboard later on.

Monowall is easy to keep clean

An occasional wipe with a damp cloth keeps Monowall clean and new looking. If necessary, soap and water or a mild cleanser like Bon Ami may be used to remove stubborn smudges. Coarse abrasives or stronger cleaning chemicals are not recommended. Wax helps to protect Monowall's brilliant surface.

ARMSTRONG'S BUILDING MATERIALS

Ask your lumber dealer for samples and prices

Armstrong's Temlok® Sheathing and Lath—asphalt-impregnated sheathing that adds strength and insulation to your home; fiberboard lath that provides an efficient plaster base.

Armstrong's Temlok Interior Finish—decorative factory-painted fiberboard in three forms: tile, planks, and large boards for attractive, low-cost walls and ceilings.

Armstrong's Temlok Roof Deck—roof deck, vapor barrier, insulation, and interior finish combined in one material.

Armstrong's Cushiontone®—perforated fiberboard acoustical unit. Highly efficient, repaintable, easy to install.

Armstrong's M-67® Monowall—decorative panels of hardened fiberboard in colorful plain, tile-designs, and streamline-designs. Quick installation, easy cleaning, needs no refinishing.

Armstrong's Insulating Wool—made of efficient Fiberglas†— fine, matted glass fibers that won't settle, burn, decay, or absorb moisture.

Armstrong's Hardboards—hardened fiberboard for wainscoting, cabinets, closets. Easy to paint, varnish, stain, or wax.

Armstrong's Counter-top Cement—a tough, hard-gripping adhesive for bonding decorative laminates to sink, table, and counter tops, and for hundreds of other purposes.

† ® Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp.

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